

# PROPOSAL FOR NEW EMOJI

# GUILLOTINE

## SUBMITTER

[carrozo]  
[carrozo.com](http://carrozo.com)  
[carrozo@hey.com](mailto:carrozo@hey.com)

## DATE

17 July 2020 (World Emoji Day)

## INTRODUCTION

This proposal is a request for the guillotine emoji to be added as a standard Unicode emoji character. This is a long-overdue inclusion to the category of "Objects".

The guillotine is most well known for its use during the French Revolution, where some celebrated it as "the people's avenger" and others vilified it as a symbol of mob violence.

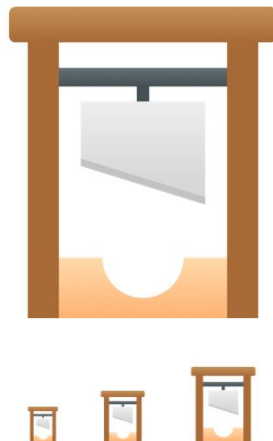
In a time of global unrest and revolt against rising inequality and authoritarianism, the Guillotine Emoji would serve as a reminder to states and elites to not take for granted the Hobbesian monopoly on violence they have been entrusted with by their peoples.

It is time for our global visual language to leverage the representation of this historic object in the global digital commons, before it is too late and real guillotines are erected in our public squares.

## 1. IDENTIFICATION

- A. **CLDR SHORT NAME** Guillotine
- B. **CLDR KEYWORDS** guillotine, the regretful climb, the national razor, the woods of justice

## 2. IMAGES



## 3. SORT LOCATION

- A. **Category:** Objects
- B. **The emoji in that category that it should come after:** Crossed Swords (⚔)

## 5. SELECTION FACTORS – INCLUSION

### A. Compatibility

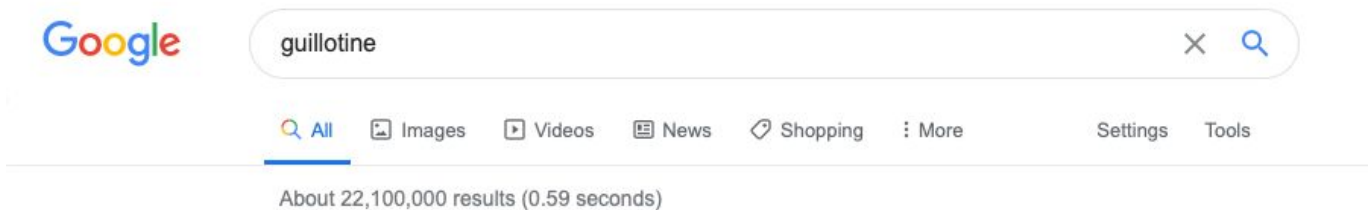
There is no widespread and standardised guillotine emoji across any of the major platforms (Apple, Google, Facebook).

Interestingly, there are multiple symbols of unmistakable violence and instruments of mass death in the very same category of Objects -- from the medieval weaponry of the Dagger (🔪), and Crossed Swords (⚔️), to the more modern Bomb (💣) and Cigarette (🚬),

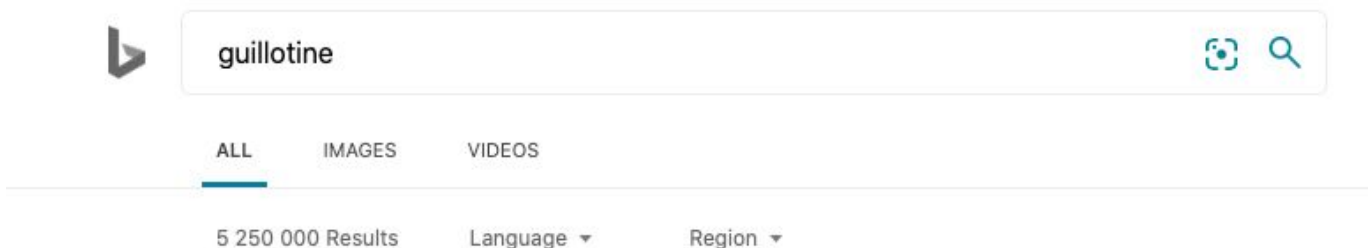
### B. Expected usage level

#### B1. FREQUENCY

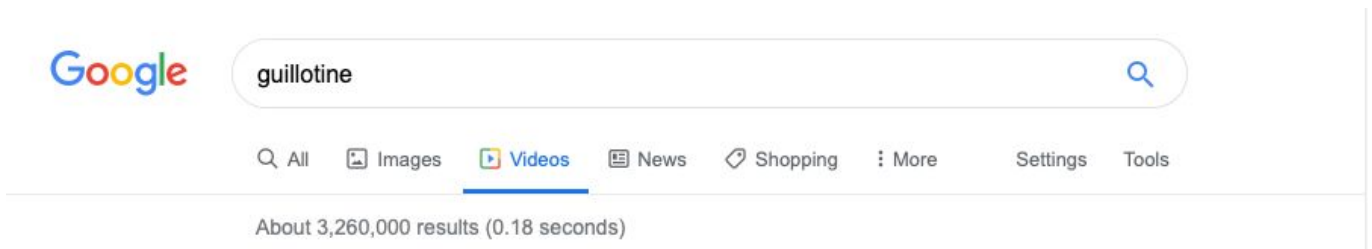
##### B1a. Google Search



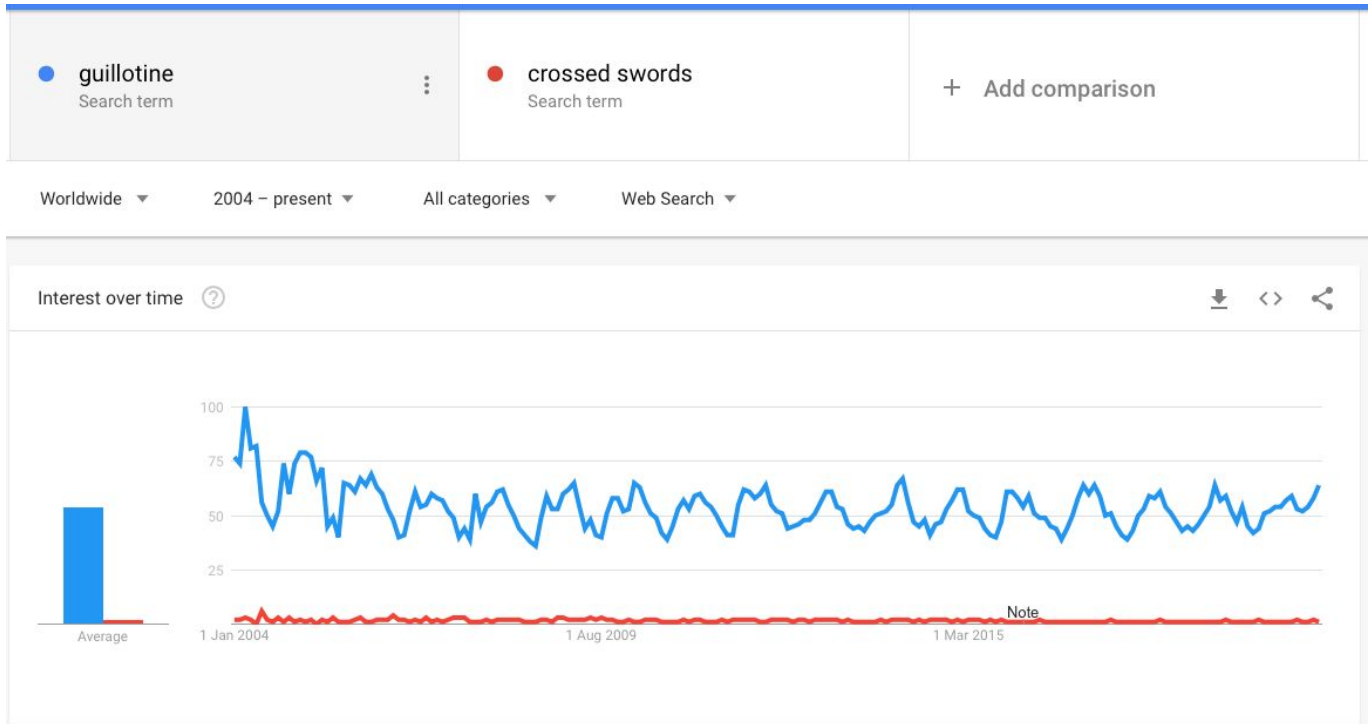
##### B1b. Bing Search



##### B1c. Google Video Search

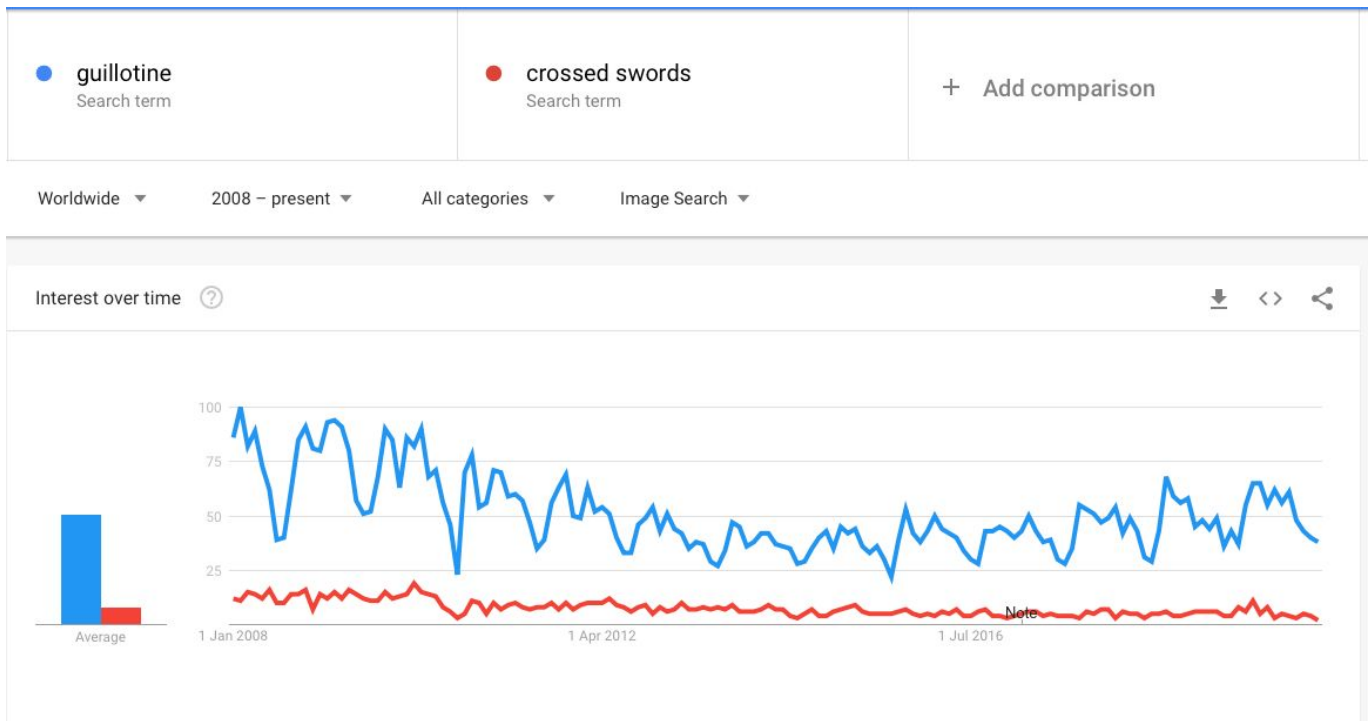


## B1d. Google Trends: Web Search



<https://trends.google.com/trends/explore?date=all&q=guillotine,crossed%20swords>

## B1e Google Trends: Image Search



[https://trends.google.com/trends/explore?date=all\\_2008&gprop=images&q=guillotine,crossed%20swords](https://trends.google.com/trends/explore?date=all_2008&gprop=images&q=guillotine,crossed%20swords)

## B2. MULTIPLE USAGES

The guillotine emoji can be used in multiple ways. It can be used as a symbol for fighting the tyranny of unchecked power, fighting the tyranny of a revolution, or fighting the tyranny of a counter-revolution. The already-powerful can also use it to demonstrate the snipping of the tips of their prized Cuban cigars.

### **B3. USE IN SEQUENCES**

There are currently many emojis that could be used in conjunction with the proposed guillotine emoji, including every disembodied head emoji (👤). Indeed, one might wonder how these heads became disembodied in the first place. We need wonder no more with the inclusion of the Guillotine Emoji.

### **B4. BREAKING NEW GROUND**

A guillotine is completely new to the current emoji lineup. It has distinct functionality from the knife, swords and dagger emojis - indeed, the creation of the guillotine was specifically intended to make capital punishment less painful in accordance with Enlightenment ideals. Previous methods had proven to be substantially more painful and prone to error. It is a merciful object weighted with centuries of meaning, and deserves inclusion in our digital realm.

### **C. DISTINCTIVENESS**

The guillotine emoji proposed above is visually and functionally distinct from all currently existing emojis. While it shares some characteristics with existing emojis (blades, etc), its distinctive tall gallows make it easily recognisable, even at small sizes.

### **D: COMPLETENESS**

The guillotine emoji would be an important addition towards representing the under-represented power of people over elites everywhere.

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## **6. SELECTION FACTORS - EXCLUSION**

### **E. Petitions or “frequent requests”**

During the drafting of this proposal, one petition did recently emerge on Change.org, but did not gain much traction.

### **F. Overly specific**

A guillotine emoji would not be overly specific, as it represents centuries of European innovation in beheading machines, going back as far as the year 1210.

### **G. Open-ended**

The guillotine emoji is not open-ended, but represents a distinctive, one-of-its-kind object that is currently missing from the emoji dictionary.

### **H. Already representable**

The usage, concept, and representations around other objects with sharp blades cannot be transferred to a guillotine.

### **I. Logos, brands, UI icons, signage, specific people, specific landmarks, deities**

The guillotine emoji submitted here does not have any specific brand attributes, and is not associated with any specific people, landmarks, deities, logos or signage that exist. There are no copyright or religious issues that would prohibit it from becoming a part of the emoji dictionary.

## **J. Transient**

The guillotine has been one of the longest recognised symbols in the history of humankind over the past 8 centuries. Its relative absence since the last execution by guillotine in France in 1977, has “coincided” with the collapse of wage growth across much of the western world.

## **K. Faulty comparison**

This emoji is completely distinct and represents an entire mode of literally “popular” expression that is currently absent.

## **L Exact images**

This proposal does not require an exact image, but instead can be slightly varied based on platform, as needed.

## **M. Region flags without code**

n/a

## **7. Other information.**

n/a

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